(3) 165 - Social Security (Seafarers Convention Revised), 1987

(4) 166 - Repatriation of Seafarers Convention (Revised), 1987

India has not ratified any of the above conventions so far. However, these conventions are not treated as Core Labour Standards.

The ILO has identified the following seven conventions as Core Labour Standards :

(1) Forced Labour (No. 29)

(2) Freedom of Association (No. 87)

(3) Right to Collective Bargaining (No. 98)

(4) Equal Remuneration (No. 100)

(5) Abolition of Forced Labour (No. 105)

(6) Discrimination (No. 111)

(7) Minimum Age Convention (No. 138)

India has already ratified conventions no. 29, 100 and 111. ILO convention no. 105 concerning abolition of forced labour is in an advanced stage of processing for ratification.

Conventions no. 87 and 98 require granting certain rights to government servants on par with industrial workers. Since Indian law treats the government servants as a category separate from industrial workers, ratification of ILO conventions no. 87 and 98 would not be possible at this stage. Similarly, there is no omnibus provision in the Indian laws fixing a minimum age for employment. Convention no. 138 covers all sectors of economic activities and all types of employment regardless of whether children are employed for wages or not. The convention also does not set priorities. It is, therefore, not possible at this stage, to ratify convention no. 138.

Global Tenders in Vizag Steel Plants

940. SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Vizag Steel Plant awarded a contract worth over Rs. 100 crores for importing coal, without inviting global tender;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (Visakhapatnam Steel Plant) entered into long term agreement in the year 1995 for a period of 3 years for import of coal from various sources in Australia in accordance with the terms and conditions and specifications of Low Ash Metallurgical Coking Coal approved by the Board of Directors of the Company.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Pager Services in Major Cities

941. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the response to introduce pager services in the major cities, present status of the progress achieved so far and target set for the current year with financial target for investment;

(b) the details of expansion plan for pager services;

(c) whether pagers in Indian languages are proposed to be launched shortly; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, language and city-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) (i) The Department of Telecommunications has issued 106 licences in respect of Radio paging operations in 27 major cities of the country. The number of licensees are between 2 to 5 in a city depending on the size of the city.

(ii) The services is available in all the 27 cities by one or more operators. Number of subscribers to the service are 4,21,721 in these 27 cities as on 31.12.1996.

(iii) As per the licence agreement, the licensees were required to commission the service within one year of the effective date of licence.

(iv) The financial investment is to be done by the licensee company depending on the demand and the expansion programme of the company.

(c) and (d) No request from any of the licensee company has been received for introduction of pager in Indian languages.

However, some of the companies appear to be getting ready for multilingual paging services.

Expansion of Exchanges

942. SHRI P.C. THOMAS :
SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to expand Telephone Exchanges during 1997 and 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise, location-wise;

(c) whether the Government also propose to open new telephone exchanges in the State; and